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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/680,064	10/04/2000	Peter Coad	30013630-0005	8739

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EXAMINER

INGBERG, TODD D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2124

DATE MAILED: 04/29/2004

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/680,064

Applicant(s)

COAD ET AL.

Examiner

Todd Ingberg

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1 – 43 have been examined.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 13, 19, 25, 31, 32, 37, 38 and 43 have been amended.

Specification

1. Amendment to the Specification was entered and is permissible because the limitation was part of the original claims and is not new matter.

Drawings

2. Addition to drawing has been approved.

3. Examiner notes Figure 29 is fuzzy. No objection is raised at this time. It is unclear if aspect of the invention are reflected in this figure. If not then a new figure is requested.

Examiner Interpretations

4. The following is intended to assist in distinguishing between prior art and the invention.
comment -

Comment - "Text embedded in a program for documentation purposes. Comments usually described what the program does, who wrote it, why it was changed, and so on. Most programming languages have a syntax for creating comments so that they can be recognized and ignored by the compiler or assembler. Also called remarks".

[**Microsoft Dictionary**, page 101 Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary, Third Edition, published September 19, 1997].

Pattern - Dictionary of Object Technology, by Firesmith, page 322

1. "any reusable architecture that experience has shown solves a problem." [Firesmith]

2. "any reusable template of objects with stereotypical responsibility and interactions" [Coad]

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Interpretation - In the broadest reasonable interpretation classes that make an object to solve a problem and can be reused.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. Applicant's response to the term "comment" in claims 2, 8, 14, 26, 32 and 38 has being distinct over the dictionary meaning is persuasive because the term must be interpreted with the term "semantic" to be distinct over a dictionary term for "comment" as provided above. This prior rejection was overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1 - 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based upon a public use or sale of the invention. Template Software 8.0 released 1997 as per the press releases (copyright date of manuals is 1998).

The **Template** product line contains:

The SNAP programming language (Not used in this Office Action)

The Workflow Template (Two manuals used)

The Web Component (Not used in this Office Action)

These three layered products work together.

The documentation sets for the products contains the following manuals.

SNAP released June 1997

SNAP Language Reference (Not used in this Office Action)

Using the SNAP Language (Not used in this Office Action)

Using the SNAP Communication Component (Not used in this Office Action)

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Using the SNAP Graphic User Interface Component (Not used in this Office Action)

Getting Started with SNAP (Not used in this Office Action)

Using the SNAP Display Editors (Not used in this Office Action)

SNAP Class Library Reference (Not used in this Office Action)

Using the SNAP External Application Software Component (Not used in this Office Action)

Using the SNAP Development Environment (Not used in this Office Action)

SNAP Module Library Reference (Not used in this Office Action)

Using the SNAP Permanent Storage Component (Not used in this Office Action)

Workflow released September 1997

Developing a WFT Workflow System (Not used in this Office Action)

Using the WFT Development Environment (Referred to as **ENVIRON**)

WFT Library Reference (Not used in this Office Action)

Web Component

Using the Web Component (Not used in this Office Action)

Since, these products work together they constitute a single reference and can be used as the basis for a rejection based on anticipated by a product offering. Furthermore, with the 1997 press release announcing version 8.0 these considered prior art under *In re Epstein* 31 USPQ2d 1817 (decided August 17, 1994) with a 1997 release date despite the 1998 copyright date.

Claim 1

Template anticipates a method in a data processing system for simplifying a graphical representation of code (**Template** , **ENVIRON**, page 4-5 - object model), the code having a plurality of related elements (**Template** , **ENVIRON**, pages 4-5 to 4-9 - classes), wherein a

first of the plurality of related elements corresponds to a first participant in a pattern (**Template** , **ENVIRON** page 4-9 - classes are patterns as per definition provided above), and wherein a second of the plurality of related elements corresponds to a second participant in the pattern, the method comprising the steps of receiving a request to simplify a portion of the graphical representation of the code associated with the pattern (as per above); determining that the first and the second related elements are related to each other (**Template** , **ENVIRON**, page 4-7 note the collapsible display and different display types such as name as a symbolic reference - name of object); displaying a representative symbol in lieu of the graphical representation of the first and the second related elements responsive to determining that the first and the second related elements are related to each other (**Template** , Chapter 4 – specifically page 4-7 displaying the relationships and options - name of classes / objects linked with inheritance); displaying a pattern collapsed tag in association with the representative symbol; displaying a pattern name in association with the representative symbol (**Template** , collapse above - name of classes/objects) ; displaying an identification for the first related element in association with the representative symbol; and displaying an identification for the second related element in association with the representative symbol, wherein the steps are performed by working directly with the code without using a repository for the code (**Template** , **ENVIRON** page 4-9, New Class function - ability to develop a new class without using a repository).

Examiner's Response

It appears the claim language is attempting to claim a method of automating REUSE of code but the claimed invention to date has not distinguished itself over common features in OO-CASE tools. The actual generation of reusable code (end result) is also absent.

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Claim 2

The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching a semantic comment field in the code for identification information (**Template** , **ENVIRON** – searching a general feature pages 2-30 to 2-31 - search class comments (hypertext) **ENVIRON** , page 4- 32 – attachment at bottom of Class tab and **ENVIRON**, page 3-23 creating notes).

Claim 3

The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the code directly for a naming convention related to the first and second participant (**Template** , **ENVIRON** – searching a general feature pages 2-30 to 2-31 - search patterns/classes defined).

Claim 4

The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the code directly for a pattern construct related to the first participant (**Template** , **ENVIRON** – searching a general feature pages 2-30 to 2-31 - search a class).

Claim 5

The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of detecting a third related element in the code corresponding to a third participant in the pattern, wherein the representative symbol is further displayed in lieu of the graphical representation of the third related element (**Template** , as per above - the object model is not limited to two classes or a object).

Claim 6

The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of receiving a modification to the representative symbol; and editing a portion of the code reflecting the modification to the representative symbol (Template above – inheritance affect on code).

Claim 7

A method in a data processing system for simplifying a graphical representation of code, the code having a first related element corresponding to a first participant in a pattern and a second related element corresponding to a second participant in the pattern, the method comprising the steps of receiving a request to simplify a portion of the graphical representation of the code associated with the pattern; detecting that the first and the second related elements are related to each other; displaying a representative symbol in lieu of the graphical representation of the first and the second related elements responsive to determining that the first and the second related elements are related to each other; and displaying a pattern collapsed tag in association with the representative symbol wherein the steps are performed by working directly with the code without using a repository for the code. As per claim 1.

Claim 8

The method of claim 7, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the code for identification information in a semantic comment field in the code. As per claim 2.

Claim 9

The method of claim 7, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the code for a naming convention related to the first participant. As per claim 3.

Claim 10

The method of claim 7, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the code for a pattern construct related to the first participant. As per claim 4.

Claim 11

The method of claim 7, wherein the code has a third related element corresponding to a third participant in a pattern, the method further comprising the step of determining that the third related element is related to the first and the second related element; and displaying the representative symbol in lieu of the graphical representation of the third related element responsive to detecting that the first, the second and the third related elements are related to each other. As per claim 5.

Claim 12

The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of receiving a modification to the representative symbol; and editing a portion of the code reflecting the modification to the representative symbol. As per claim 6.

Claim 13

A method in a data processing system for simplifying a graphical representation of code, the code having a first related element corresponding to a first participant in a pattern and a second related element corresponding to a second participant in the pattern, the method comprising the steps of:

determining that the first and the second related elements are related to each other; and displaying a representative symbol in lieu of the graphical representation of the first and the second related elements responsive to determining that the first and the second related elements are related to each other, wherein the steps are performed by working directly with the code without using a repository for the code. As per claim 1.

Claim 14

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The method of claim 13, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the code for identification information in a semantic comment field in the code. As per claim 2.

Claim 15

The method of claim 13, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the code for a naming convention related to the first participant. As per claim 3.

Claim 16

The method of claim 13, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the code for a pattern construct related to the first participant. As per claim 4.

Claim 17

The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of detecting a third related element in the code corresponding to a third participant in the pattern, wherein the representative symbol is further displayed in lieu of the graphical representation of the third related element.

As per claim 5.

Claim 18

The method of claim 13 further comprising the steps of receiving a modification to the representative symbol; and editing a portion of the code reflecting the modification to the representative symbol. As per claim 6.

Claim 19

A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method, the data processing system having code having a plurality of related elements, wherein a first of the plurality of related elements corresponds to a first participant in a pattern, and a second of the plurality of related elements corresponds to a second participant in the

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pattern, the method comprising the steps of receiving a request to simplify a portion of the graphical representation of the code associated with the pattern; determining that the first and the second related elements are related to each other; displaying a representative symbol in lieu of the graphical representation of the first and the second related elements responsive to determining that the first and the second related elements are related to each other; displaying a pattern collapsed tag in association with the representative symbol; displaying a pattern name in association with the representative symbol; displaying an identification for the first related element in association with the representative symbol; and displaying an identification for the second related element in association with the representative symbol wherein the steps are performed by working directly with the code without using a repository for the code.

As per claim 1.

Claim 20

The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the semantic code for identification information in a comment field in the code. As per claim 2.

Claim 21

The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the code for a naming convention related to the first participant. As per claim 3.

Claim 22

The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the code for a pattern construct related to the first participant. As per claim 4.

Claim 23

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The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises the step of detecting a third related element in the code corresponding to a third participant in the pattern, wherein the representative symbol is further displayed in lieu of the graphical representation of the third related element. As per claim 5.

Note: the number of relations does not impact the rejection. The ability to related more than 2 symbols is part of modeling. Multiple inheritance does not appear to be claimed so the technical limitations of a language are not being challenged.

Claim 24

The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises the steps of receiving a modification to the representative symbol; and editing a portion of the code reflecting the modification to the representative symbol. As per claim 6.

Claim 25

A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method, the data processing system having code having a first related element corresponding to a first participant in a pattern and a second related element corresponding to a second participant in the pattern, the method comprising the steps of receiving a request to simplify a portion of the graphical representation of the code associated with the pattern; detecting that the first and the second related elements are related to each other; displaying a representative symbol in lieu of the graphical representation of the first and the second related elements responsive to determining that the first and the second related elements are related to each other wherein the steps are performed by working directly with the code without using a repository for the code. As per claim 1.

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Claim 26

The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the semantic code for identification information in a comment field in the code. As per claim 2.

Claim 27

The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the code for a naming convention related to the first participant. As per claim 3.

Claim 28

The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the code for a pattern construct related to the first participant. As per claim 4.

Claim 29

The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the method further comprises the step of detecting a third related element in the code corresponding to a third participant in the pattern, wherein the representative symbol is further displayed in lieu of the graphical representation of the third related element. As per claim 5 in view of remarks in claim 23.

Claim 30

The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the method further comprises the steps of receiving a modification to the representative symbol; and editing a portion of the code reflecting the modification to the representative symbol. As per claim 6.

Claim 31

A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method, the data processing system having code having a first related element and a

second related element, the method comprising the steps of detecting that the first and the second related elements are related to each other; and displaying a representative symbol in lieu of the graphical representation of the first and the second related elements responsive to determining that the first and the second related elements are related to each other wherein the steps are performed by working directly with the code without using a repository for the code.

As per claim 1.

Claim 32

The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the code for identification information in a comment field in the code. As per claim 2.

Claim 33

The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the code for a naming convention related to the first participant. As per claim 3.

Claim 34

The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the determining step comprises the step of searching the code for a pattern construct related to the first participant. As per claim 4.

Claim 35

The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises the step of detecting a third related element in the code corresponding to a third participant in the pattern, wherein the representative symbol is further displayed in lieu of the graphical representation of the third related element. As per claim 5.

Claim 36

The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises the steps of receiving a modification to the representative symbol; and editing a portion of the code reflecting the modification to the representative symbol. As per claim 6.

Claim 37

A data processing system comprising: a secondary storage device further comprising code having a first related element corresponding to a first participant in a pattern and a second related element corresponding to a second participant in the pattern; a memory device further comprising a program that receives a request to simplify a portion of a graphical representation of the code associated with the pattern, that determines whether the first and the second related elements are related to each other, that displays a representative symbol in lieu of the graphical representation of the first related element and the second related element responsive to the first and the second related elements being related to each other, and that displays a pattern collapsed tag in association with the representative symbol to reflect a collapsed state for the pattern; and a processor for running the program wherein the steps are performed by working directly with the code without using a repository for the code. As per claim 25.

Claim 38

The data processing system of claim 37, wherein when determining that the first and the second related elements are related to each other, the program searches the code for identification information in a comment field in the code. As per claim 2.

Claim 39

The data processing system of claim 37, wherein when determining that the first and the second related elements are related to each other, the program searches the code for a naming convention related to the first participant As per claim 3.

Claim 40

The data processing system of claim 37, wherein when determining that the first and the second related elements are related to each other, the program searches the code for a pattern construct related to the first participant. As per claim 4.

Claim 41

The data processing system of claim 37, wherein the program further detects a third related element in the code corresponding to a third participant in the pattern, wherein the representative symbol is further displayed in lieu of the graphical representation of the third related element. As per claim 5 in view of remarks on multiple relations not being a limit.

Claim 42

The data processing system of claim 37, wherein the program further: receives a modification to the representative symbol; and edits a portion of the code reflecting the modification to the representative symbol. As per claim 6.

Claim 43

A system for simplifying a graphical representation of code, the code having a first related element and a second related element, the system comprising: means for determining that the first and the second related elements are related to each other; and means for displaying a representative symbol in lieu of the graphical representation of the first and the second related elements responsive to detecting that the first and the second related elements are related to

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each other wherein the steps are performed by working directly with the code without using a repository for the code. As per claim 1.

Response to Arguments

7. Argument's files January 26, 2004 are not persuasive.

The following are the Applicant's remarks. The remarks have been scanned and may contain minor errors. This is not an attempt to misrepresent Applicant's word but an attempt to clarify as clearly as possible the position of the Examiner.

Applicant's Argument

"Rejection of Claims on Art Grounds in the 09/26/2003 Office Action, and Traversal Thereof

In the 26 September 2003 Office Action, claims 1-43 have been rejected on prior art grounds, under 35 U.S.C 102, as follows: Claims 1-43 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Rational Rose v. 4.0 released November 1996.

The above rejections of the claims 1-43 on the stated art and Utility grounds are traversed, and consideration of the patentability of the claims 1-43 is requested, In light of the following remarks.

The applicant asserts that it defines a comment as a semantic comment, i.e., a semantic extension of the source code; for providing semantic context to the comment. This clarification of the definition of semantic comment as opposed to comment does not provide a definition that is repugnant to the normal meaning, rather it clarifies and further particularizes the type of comment in the present Invention.

The present invention is distinguishable over the prior art cited by the Examiner. In as much as the present invention provides for building diagrams from code by parsing the comments and the code, whereas the- Rational Rose 4.0 reference cited by the examiner (hereinafter referred to as "Rose") require.-, a separate repository, i.e., Rose reads the source code and creates a separate repository stored in an NDL file, and imports and exports from it; Rose parses the source code and creates a repository to work from, which teaches away from the present invention. By contrast, the present invention provides for a transient meta model that is built directly from the source. code. Thus, the present invention works directly from the source code Using a single source approach to parse the source code and create a semantic extension of the source code, semantic comments, that provide for a mixture of source code and comments in the form of a diagram.

Claims 1-43 are asserted to be In patentable condition. Allowance of these claims is hereby respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner finds additional minor

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modifications that would place these claims in allowable condition, the Examiner is respectfully requested to make telephonic contact with the Attorney of Record to discuss and make changes via Examiner's Amendment to place the claims in condition for allowance.

The above rejections of the claims 1-43 on the stated art and utility grounds are traversed, and consideration of the patentability of the claims 1-43 is requested, 'in light of the foregoing remarks. Favorable action is therefore requested.'

Examiner's Response

Applicant's amendment has clearly claimed a "semantic comment" where previously it was not claimed. Amendments to independent claims also change the scope of the claims and required a new ground of rejection.

Applicant's Conclusion

"In view of the foregoing, claims 1-43 constituting the claims pending in the application, are submitted to be fully patentably and in allowable condition to address and overcome the rejections.

If any issues remain outstanding, incident to the allowance of the application, Examiner Ingberg is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (919) 664-8222 or via email at X to discuss the resolution of issues, in order that prosecution of the application may be concluded favorably to the applicant, consistent with the applicant's making of a substantial advance in the art and particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention."

Examiner's Disposition

Amendment required additional cited grounds of rejection. Interviews are only granted if an agenda with specific items are submitted and approved (Form PTOL-413A) . The USPTO has a strict email policy where Patent Attorneys and Agents are welcome to sign a waiver which means they understand they have no right to privacy or confidentiality in any matters involving email. Examiner Ingberg elects not to use email for Patent prosecution and rarely allows any member of the public to access his email account. Examiner believes the best mode of business is in writing via official Fax or U.S. Mail.

Conclusion

8. The actual invention appears to be a way of performing REUSE in an object oriented programming language where UML is used. The claimed invention is basic high level code writing some search for strings but the actual invention is not visible in the current claim

language. The term reuse is too nebulous to make a definite limitation. However, limitations that support figures 4 through 10 might better claim the actual invention. Examiner is unclear if the claimed invention is intended to be a REUSE engine clear claim limitations to claim such an invention would require further search and consideration. Examiner has to ask if figure 29 was intended to look fuzzy. Does this figure illustrate a feature of the invention.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Correspondence Information

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Todd Ingberg** whose telephone number is (703) 305-9775. The examiner can normally be reached during the following hours:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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6:15 – 1:30

6:15- 3:45

6:15 – 4:45

6:15-3:45

6:15-130

This schedule began December 1, 2003 and is subject to change.

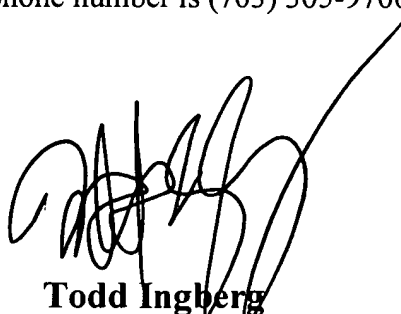
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Kakali Chaki** can be reached on (703) 305-9662. Please, note that as of August 4, 2003 the **FAX number** changed for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **(703) 872-9306**.

Also, be advised the United States Patent Office **new address** is

Post Office Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9700.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Ingberg', with a long, sweeping line extending from the end of the signature towards the top right of the page.

Todd Ingberg
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2124
April 1, 2004